

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR THE USS SWORDFISH (SSN 579) 1968 COMMAND HISTORY REPORT

This enclosure should be provided along with the USS SWORDFISH (SSN 579) command history report (CHR) any time the CHR is released to the public.

The USS SWORDFISH (SSN 579) 1968 CHR contains the following entry:

"2 MAY 68 – 11 MAY 68. The Ship made a visit to SASEBO, Japan. During this visit it was alleged by the Local Branch of the Maritime Safety Office that SWORDFISH discharged an unknown amount of radioactive material to the harbor. It was later proven to the satisfaction of CINCPACFLT and Naval Reactors Inspectors that no such discharge occurred."

This report entry and the U.S. Navy response to the allegations warrants further explanation. On May 6, 1968, abnormal environmental radiation monitoring readings in Sasebo Harbor, Japan were reported to the U.S. by the Government of Japan. The U.S. Ambassador to Japan, the Honorable U. Alexis Johnson, subsequently requested a Technical Review Group be sent to Japan to assist the Government of Japan investigation into the abnormal readings. On May 25, 1968, the Technical Review Group provided a report to Ambassador Johnson. The report was also formally entered into U.S. public record in the Hearings before the Subcommittee on Agreements for Cooperation of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, Congress of U.S. (March 20, 1967 and June 25, 1968). The full report can be found online by using standard internet search engines.

The Technical Review Group consisted of the leading experts on U.S. Naval nuclear propulsion. The conclusions of the Technical Review Group included:

"The Technical Review Group has concluded without reservation that USS SWORDFISH did not at any time while in or near the port of Sasebo during the period May 2 through 11 discharge radioactivity of any kind to the atmosphere or to the surrounding waters. The Technical Review Group has further concluded that the abnormal instrument readings recorded in Sasebo harbor on May 6, 1968 were not caused by radioactivity from USS SWORDFISH."

and

"If one assumes that the abnormal readings were, in fact, caused by some form of radioactivity, the radiation levels and radioactivity concentrations would be of the order of one thousand times less than those considered acceptable for the general public by such recognized authorities as the International Commission on Radiological Protection and the U.S. Federal Radiation Council."